

PATENT APPLICATION
Navy Case No.: 79,212

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 7-15, 21, and 23-26 are pending in the application. Claims 6 and 22 have been cancelled by this amendment without prejudice. Claims 25 and 26 have been added by this amendment. No claims are presently allowed.

Claims 3 and 9 have been amended to change "enzyme" to "thioesterase." This incorporates the limitation from dependent claims 6 and 22.

Claims 3 and 9 have been amended to cancel the limitation that the bound enzyme is catalytically active. This limitation has been moved to new dependent claims 25 and 26.

The Examiner objected to claims 6 and 22 as dependent upon rejected base claims 3 and 9, respectively. By this amendment, claims 6 and 22 have been cancelled, and the limitation in these claims has been incorporated into claims 3 and 9, which have additional amendments.

The Examiner rejected claims 9-14, 21, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Carlsson, LeJeune, Qiagen Product Guide, Lu, and Polayes. Claim 9 has been amended to incorporate the limitation from claim 22 that the enzyme is thioesterase. Claim 9 has also been amended to cancel the limitation that the bound enzyme is catalytically active. Claim 9 is now similar in scope to original claim 6, differing primarily in the choice of substrate, as well as amendments made to overcome § 112 rejections. There were no prior art rejections of original claim 6 or of any amended version of claim 6.

Claims 10-14, 21, 23, and 26 depend from and contain all the limitations of claim 9. Claims 10-14, 21, 23, and 26 are asserted to distinguish from the references in the same manner as claim 9.

The Examiner rejected claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 15, and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Carlsson, LeJeune, Singh, and Polayes. Claim 3 has been amended to incorporate the limitation from claim 6 that the enzyme is thioesterase. Claim 3 has also been amended to cancel the limitation that the bound enzyme is catalytically active. Claim 3 is now similar in scope to original claim 6 differing due to amendments made to overcome § 112 rejections. There were no prior art rejections of original claim 6 or of any amended version of claim 6.

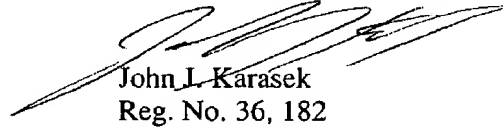
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Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 15, 24, and 25 depend from and contain all the limitations of claim 3.
Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 15, 24, and 25 are asserted to distinguish from the references in the same manner as claim 3.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

In the event that a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 50-0281, and in the event that there is a credit due, please credit Deposit Account No. 50-0281.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

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